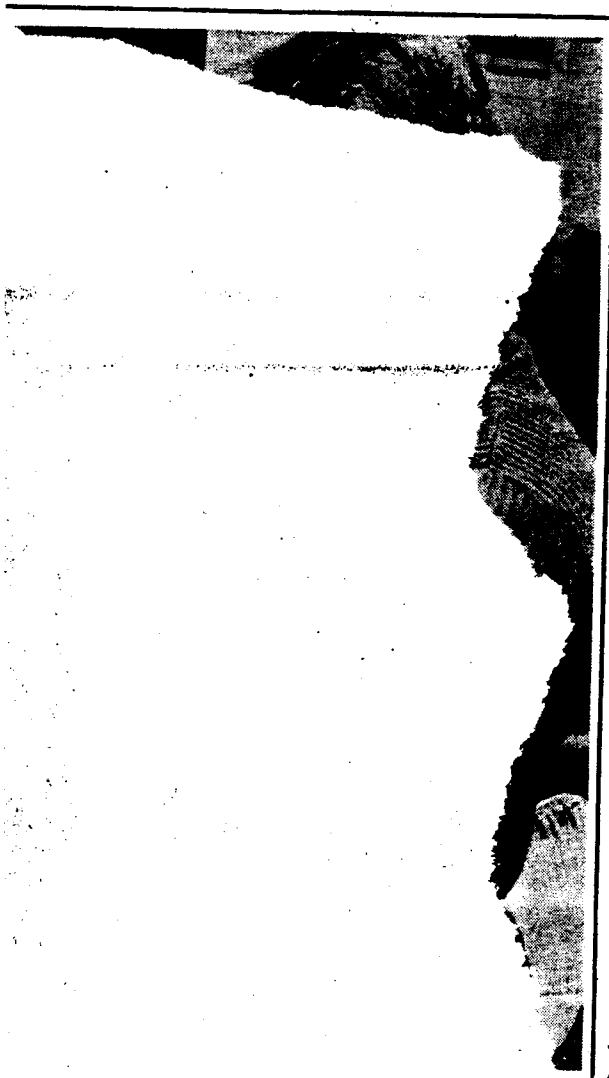
ıba prisoner: I spied for CIA from jail



By STEVE DUNLEAVY
N. Y. Post Correspondent

HAVANA — Frank Emmick, who is serving a 50-year jail sentence in Cuba after being accused of being head of the CIA in Havana, says he was working for the CIA from prison and sending communications to former CIA head Richard Helms "through the underground."

Emmick, 63, admitted that he had sent a letter to Helms from jail in Cuba fingering Dominican Republic revolutionary Francesco Caamano Deno, who was reported missing in October 1967 soon after the information was transmitted. The Cubans claim Caamano was murdered.

Emmick, from Toledo, Ohio, is one of five U. S. citizens serving a total of 170 years for alleged CIA activities.

They were visited yesterday by Rep. Fred Richmond (D-B'klyn), who has made a vigorous appeal to Fidel Castro to have them freed.

FROGS' LEGS

Emmick, who formerly sold equipment to the U. S. government, arrived in Cuba in 1959 as a salesman of frogs' legs.

The Cubans claim he used this as a cover to orchestrate the CIA's entire activities in the country and was "the intellectual author" of the execution of Caamano.

Today Emmick admitted that he had sent a letter to Helms informing him of the activities of Caamano because he felt it was "his duty as a U. S. citizen." But he denied being head of the CIA there.

Despite Emmick's claim of innocence, Cliff McCrary, a 39-year-old native of Kentucky who hijacked a boat from Key West and took it to Cuba at gunpoint, told The Post: "When I arrived here I was in jail for seven months and I met Emmick inside. He tried to have me killed because he thought I was a Communist. The man is crazy."

DESCRIBE ORDEAL

Emmick and four other prisoners, Everett Jackson, 37, of Miami, Lawrence Lunt, 54, of Wyoming; Juan Tur, 60, of Tampa, and Claudio Rodriguez Morales, 47, of Puerto Rico, told Richmond of the harrowing years in Cuban jails marked by long periods of solitary confinement, bad food, no exercise and psychological torture.

The prisoners are in the Combinado del Este prison outside of Havana.

The first one to talk to Richmond was Jackson,

FRANK EMMICK
Serving 50 years.

whose plane was shot down by the Cubans on Dec. 27, 1967.

Jackson refused to say whether he was involved with the CIA, but confessed that he parachuted over Cuban territory and the "cameras and equipment" in the plane were confiscated.

He claimed that he was working indirectly for a reporter on the Santa Ana (Cal.) register when he was arrested.

Lunt, a former rancher from Wyoming, says he was arrested in 1965 when he was cattle-ranching in the west of Cuba. "I was arrested. I have nothing to say.

'NO SECRETS'

"I was interrogated for five months in solitary confinement," he said. "I have no more secrets. It was a confirmed fact that I was a CIA agent. They had the proof through other people who were caught."

Morales, 48, told Richmond that he made his way to Cuba in July 1966 to "get some people out and take them to Miami.

"They caught me and gave me 20 years," he said. "There's nothing more to it than that."

Tur, 60, was arrested in October 1964 after a year as a fugitive in Havana.

"They say I was supposed be a CIA agent," he said. "They did not say any specific crimes. I have 16 more years to go. I'm older than the rest and my health is not as good."

Tur has a wife and daughter in Havana. When asked point-blank whether he was a member of the CIA, he said, "I would not like to answer the question."

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